

**Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru**  
**Royal Commission**  
**on the**  
**Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales**



**Castell Cwm-wyntyll**

**County:** Pembrokeshire

**Community:** Trecwm

**NGR:** SM 9645 3113

**NPRN:** 305189

**SAM:** PE141

**Date of Survey:** March 2010

**Surveyed by:** Louise Barker

**Report Author:** Louise Barker

**Illustrations:** Louise Barker

© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW 2010

Comments or queries regarding the content of the report should be made to the author:

RCAHMW, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1NJ

**Tel:** 01970 621200

**World Wide Web:** <http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk>



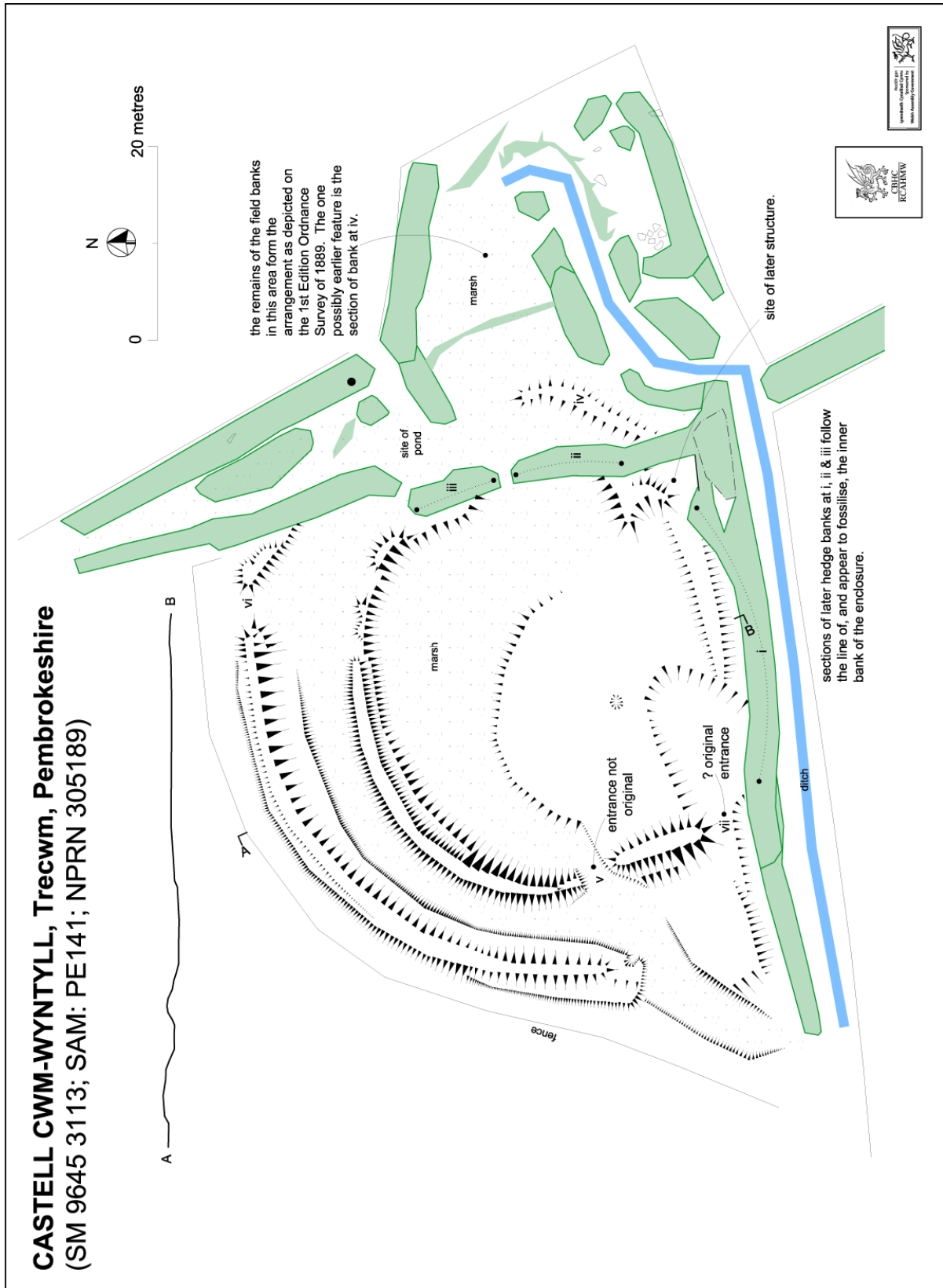


Figure 1: Royal Commission survey of Castell Cwm-wyntell (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW 2010)

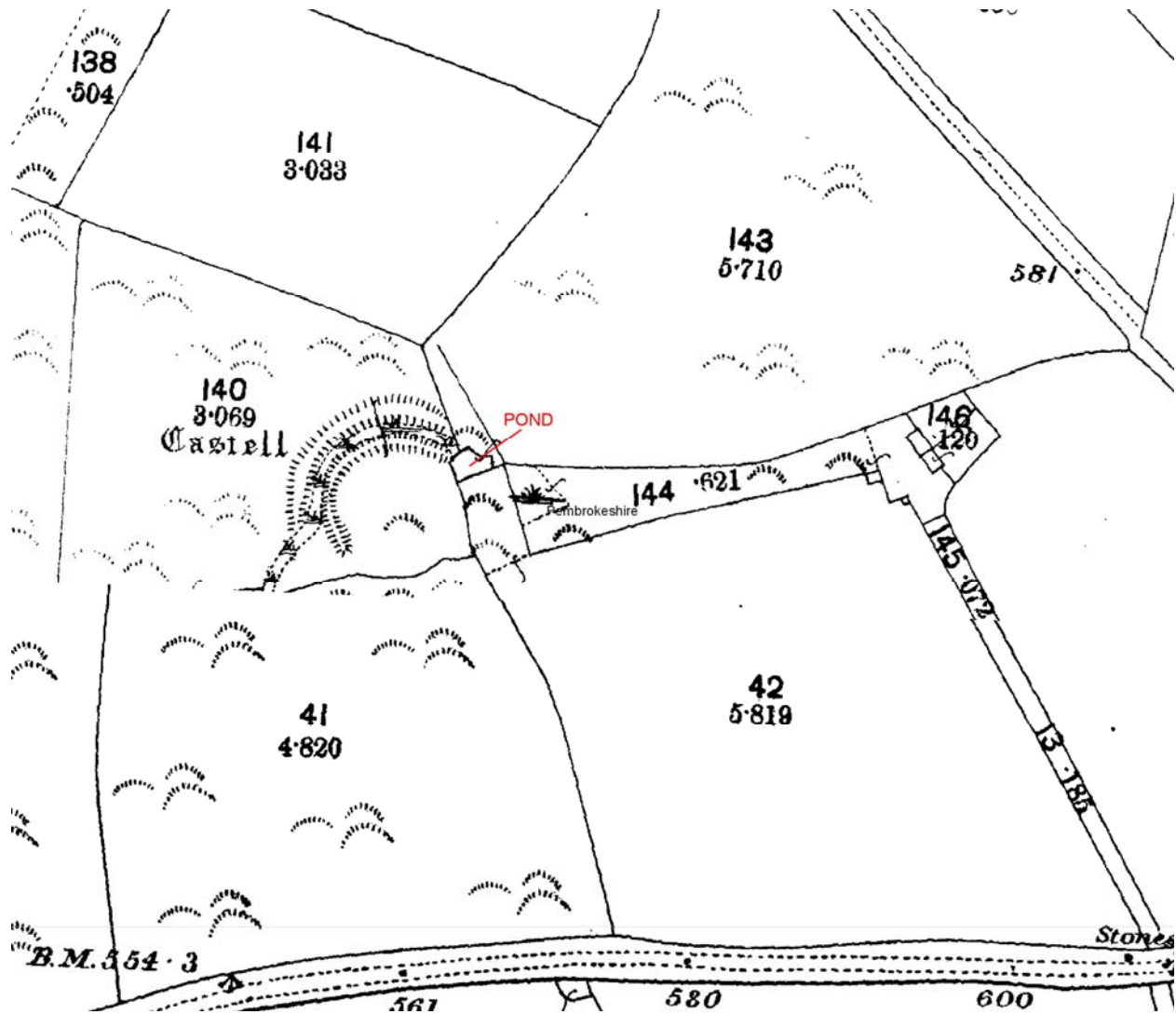
The earthwork enclosure of Castell Cwm-wyntyll occupies a saddle between two hills, 175m above sea level and 450m north east of Cwm-wyntyll farmhouse in the parish of Trecwm (formerly Llanfair-nant-y-gof), Pembrokeshire. Directly to the north of the enclosure, the ground rises gradually to a summit 185m above sea level, whilst the higher Ysgubor Mountain at 232m above sea level lies directly to the south.



**Figure 2: Castell Cwm-wyntyll from the southeast (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW AP\_2010\_1072)**

The earthwork remains define an inner circular area around 39m in diameter (0.1 hectares). Later enclosure obscures the complete plan of the monument, with the best preserved sections to the north and west, where they comprise double concentric banks with an internal ditch. The inner bank is 6.7m wide and 1.3m high, with the outer bank, 3m beyond, 7m wide and 1.4m high. The inner face of the outer bank has a clear stepped profile incorporating a 1m wide terrace. The ditch between the two banks comprises very marshy ground and is largely in-filled with evidence that it has been re-cut in recent times (Figs 1 & 2).

The remainder of the enclosure is much harder to trace due to later land enclosure. The tithe map of 1838 clearly shows the outline of the monument on all but its east side, where a field boundary, as surviving today, truncates the monument. By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1889, there were further modifications along this eastern edge, principally as a result of a new building situated 150m to the east. New boundaries were established that enclosed a narrow strip of land running along to the building and a pond was created over a section of the enclosure (Fig 3).



**Figure 3: Castell Cwm-wyntell as depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey of 1889 (Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100017916)**

Despite these alterations, the line and plan of the inner bank has been fossilised in those field boundaries that overlie the eastern and southern edge of the enclosure, as indicated by **i**, **ii** and **iii** on the survey plan (Fig 1). An aerial photograph taken in 1946 (Fig 4), also provides a much clearer picture of the enclosure and illustrates quite clearly the inner bank along its southern edge which since this date has been modified further. There is however, no indication on this photograph or any mapping for the continuation of the outer bank, or for any other features such as an outer ditch. If these existed they would have been removed by ploughing in the field to the south and also by the alterations that occurred on the east side of the monument as described above. The only possible survival may be a section of bank at **iv** on the survey plan (Fig 1). There is however a possibility that the outer bank never defined the full circuit and it may be that the current terminal at the southern end of the surviving section, although re-cut, may actually represent an original terminus.





**Figure 4: Castell Cwm-wyntell in 1946  
(From NMRW collections: Crown  
Copyright: MOD AP106G\_UK1472\_3097  
1946)**

The position of entrances into the enclosure is also unclear. The obvious gap in the inner bank at **v** and the outer bank at **vi** on the survey plan are not original, they are not depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey. The gap at **vii** appears the most likely candidate, and the hollowing within the interior beyond this point might suggest a more intensively used area.

The interior also appears modified, with the southern half standing higher than the rest, which appears to have been dug out and now comprises marshy ground covered in reeds. The only feature of significance within the interior is situated in the south-east corner at the junction of two field banks. Here there are signs that a structure once stood here. There is no indication of this on the 1946 aerial photograph and it appears to represent one of the later modifications to the site, alongside the drainage of the pond shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey and the cutting of drainage channels.

Castell Cwm-wyntyll is best classified as a small defended settlement, perhaps a protected farmstead, most likely Iron Age in date. This is a monument type seen throughout Wales, with over 220 known in Pembrokeshire alone (Murphy et al, 2010). Like many such sites in Pembrokeshire it is not itself sited in an overwhelmingly defensive position, with two higher summits to either side and also exposed to the prevailing wind from the southwest. However other factors, including a good water supply and fertile land may have factored into the choice of location. The obvious presence of water at this site, strongly suggests this was the fundamental reason behind its location, whether for agricultural or even possibly more ritual purposes. Thus, the inner ditch may well have served a very practical function for the diversion of water away from the interior.

## Sources

Murphy, K., Ramsey, R., Poucher, P., & Page, M. 2007. A Survey of Defended Enclosures in Pembrokeshire, 2006-2007: Gazetteer of Ordnance Survey grid Squares SM73, SM83 and SM93, Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology, Report No. 2207/01. Unpublished

Murphy, K. and Murphy, F. 2010. Iron Age Hillforts and Defended Enclosures in Southwest Wales. *Internet Archaeology*, Issue 28.

Ordnance Survey Record Card: SM 93 SE 7 (located at NMRW, Aberystwyth)

RCAHMW. 1925. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire. VII. – County of Pembroke*. London: HMSO

Aerial Photographs: 106G/UK 1472/3097-98 (4<sup>th</sup> May 1946) (located at NMRW, Aberystwyth)